



General Alfred M. Gray Marine Corps Research Center

The Vice-President of Instructional and Research Support (VP-IRS) of the Marine Corps University is responsible to the President, MCU for fiscal management and administration for the provision of learning resources in support of Marine Corps professional military education and life long learning programs. The VP-IRS is dual-hatted as the Director of the Gray Research Center (GRC), which houses the Library of the Marine Corps as well a conference center and the VP- IRS administrative office. The mission of VP-IRS is to support the study and teaching of expeditionary warfare in a joint and/or coalition environment at all levels throughout the Marine Corps by providing comprehensive storage, organization, retrieval, and access to tactical, operational, and strategic warfighting as well as international relations information. The VP-IRS also provides state-of-the-art instructional support for on-site and distance education students of the MCU via classroom instructional technology, internet and intranet access to curriculum and research support resources, as well as coordinating scheduling and use of the Gray Research Center's facilities. VP-IRS resources provide worldwide patrons with ready access to an extensive collection of monographs and journals, historically significant official and personal archival documents, products of current scholarly research, and operational lessons learned in order to support their professional military education and to stimulate the development and implementation of concepts, doctrine, tactics, techniques, and procedures.

The Library of the Marine Corps, housed in the GRC on the MCU main campus, consists of 4 branches:

The **James Carson Breckinridge Academic Library Branch** is the premier academic library within the Marine Corps. Its collections include approximately 140, 000 books, 130,000 microforms, over 200 paper journal subscriptions, and access to thousands of journals, serials, news sources, and gray literature through a variety of electronic and digital databases. While the emphasis is on Marine Corps history and expeditionary warfare, all aspects of military arts and sciences and military history are covered in depth, with additional coverage or ancillary subject areas such as history, international relations, regional and area studies, geography, political and social sciences, and technology. The library provides a complete range of reference, bibliographic, research and loan services to students, faculty, and staff of the MCU as well as to Marines and independent scholars worldwide.

The **Archives and Special Collections Branch** collects, arranges, describes, maintains, and provides access to record copies of Marine Corps Action/After Action/Combat Reports and Unit Command Chronologies and Command Historical Summary Files as well as non-record copies of valuable Marine Corps operational and administrative records, in a variety of digital and non-digital formats, including but not limited to: USMC official publications, oral histories, curriculum files, photos, videos, etc. The Archives also collects, arranges, describes, catalogs, maintains and provides access to special collections of historical value to the students faculty and researchers of MCU, the Marine Corps and other historical researchers including, but not limited to: records deemed by NARA not to have permanent value but which have historical and evidentiary value to the USMC, donated personal papers and manuscript collections of the Commandants and Marines from all ranks and time periods, oral histories, memoirs, rare books, maps, audiovisual and other specialized subject and/or format based collections, both digital and non-digital. All of these resources are available to students either on-site in the Archives or in digital format on the Web. Among the collections available in the Archives and Special Collections are:

- The Historical Amphibious File --- chronicles the development of amphibious doctrine (available on the web)
- WWI and WWII Operational Orders and Reports
- Inter-War Exercise Collection
- The USMC Korean & Vietnam War Collections
- Advanced Base Problems
- USMC Tables of Organization and Equipment
- Command & Staff, MCWAR, SAW, and EWS Research Papers (available on the web)

The **Virtual Library Branch** is a newly established branch and is largely invisible to the public. Its charter is to create and maintain a digital nexus among the collections and resources of the other branches of the LMC. It provides technical oversight and management of all matters relating to the recommendation, purchase, licensing and use of software applications, leased and/or purchased digital information resources and the systems used to organize, catalog and provide access to the Library's collections (*Horizon/Corinthian*, the Library Management System and *TRIM*, the Archives' Electronic Document Management System). The Virtual Library ensures the effective delivery of digital information and research resources to the MCU campus and broader community of students, staff, and researchers throughout the University and the Marine Corps on the open Internet as well as through appropriate portals, intranets, extranets or other delivery methods. It continually updates and improves information and research support through evaluating new technologies and concepts for organizing and providing access to digital information and electronic resources as well as evaluating and recommending new digital information and research resources of value to the MCU and the USMC. The Virtual Library will develop and maintain a focused dynamic and useful web presence and ensure that the Library's web site is responsive to the broad spectrum

of Library of Marine Corps users. Presently the LMC web pages highlights include a Regions of Interest page, Faculty publications page, links to the MECC Libraries and their resources as well as links to the publications of the Joint Staff and sister services.

The Quantico Base Library Branch is a recreational, educational and informational reading library used by military (active and retired), military family members, and civilians employed by tenants and activities of the Base. It supports off duty education and is particularly focused on supporting the children of Base occupants and the international students, their spouses, and children who attend the various colleges and schools of the MCU. Although the Quantico Library is under the operational control of the MCU, funding for the library's collections and programs is supported by Marine Corps Base Quantico.

All of these branches work together to provide coordinated support and assistance to the students, faculty, staff, and their families of the MCU colleges and schools.



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